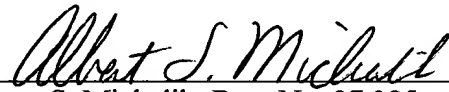


### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3-9, 11-29 and 31-37 are patentable over the prior art of record, and that the application is good and proper form for allowance. A favorable action on the part of the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (425) 836-3030.

Respectfully submitted,



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**Appendix A**  
*(marked up copy of claims amended herein)*

1. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, comprising:

receiving input of a value corresponding to a first field of a first object that maintains plan data;

receiving additional input corresponding to a second field of a second object that maintains plan data[.];

receiving input that defines [the first and second objects having a defined] a hierarchical relationship between the first and second objects such that a value in the second field is at least partially based on the first field as a result of the hierarchical relationship;

developing a plan by running a simulation on objects that maintain the plan data including the first and second objects;

receiving input of a new value for the first field; and

developing a new plan by running a simulation on objects that maintain the plan data, including the first and second objects, in which in the new plan, the new value changes the information in the second field.

34. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim [17] 16 wherein synchronizing plan elements with data from another program includes synchronizing only the plan elements that have been previously identified for synchronization.

36. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, [for performing the method of claim 18] comprising, providing access to a limited number of objects to a user, each object having fields therein for maintaining plan information, receiving first user input information including a value associated with a first field of a first object, receiving second user input information associated with a second field of a second object, the second input information specifying a relationship of the second field with the first field, disabling at least one object, and developing a plan including running a simulation that excludes each disabled object.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Amendment and Petition for Extension of Time, along with Transmittal, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: April 7, 2003

  
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Albert S. Michalik

*1800 amendment*